



Dr. James Ross Innes, died 2nd May, 1968

James Ross Innes

M.D. (EDINBURGH), D.T.M. (LIVERPOOL)

Editor, *Leprosy Review*, 1957-1968

Medical Secretary, LEpra, 1957-1966

With the passing of Dr. James Ross Innes on 2nd May, 1968, at the age of 65, *Leprosy Review* has lost a distinguished Editor and the cause of leprosy throughout the world is bereft of a wise counsellor and advocate. Our deep sympathy goes to his widow, who has herself for some years been most active and efficient in the conduct of the business side of the *Review*, and to his two daughters.

It was as Medical Secretary of LEpra that he assumed the office of Editor, and after relinquishing the secretaryship in early 1966 because of failing health, he continued as Editor; in fact, he had just seen the second issue of 1968 off the press when the call came.

His connection with the British Leprosy Relief Association went back to the year 1957, when, retiring from his post as Leprologist to the East Africa High Commission, he was appointed Medical Secretary to the Association. His sage counsel, given without stint, was of great value to LEpra throughout a decade of medical advance, of changing emphasis and of the inauguration of the Malawi Project. It was in connection with this Project that his organizing ability was put to the test as he faced the novel situation and its challenges. If he may be said to have acted as accoucheur for the Malawi Project, he had earlier gained experience as practising paediatrician of the Leprosy Research Centre at Alupe in Kenya, watching over its growth and development with expert and considerate care.

James Ross Innes was born in Brisbane, Australia, and received his early education at the Brisbane Grammar School. He came to Edinburgh, Scotland, to pursue his medical studies, which were crowned with the award of the degrees of M.B., CH.B. (with honours). His interest in leprosy was awakened by Dr. Ernest

Muir, who happened to be his travelling companion on his voyage to India in 1928. As medical officer to the Khondwa Leper Asylum and the Wadia Hospital of the Church of Scotland Mission in Poona, India, he had every opportunity of seeing the sad ravages of leprosy in the pre-sulphone days.

During leave in England in 1934, Ross Innes took the course for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine at the Liverpool School. He gained the diploma, and also the Milne Medal as the most distinguished student of his year. Within months, his thesis (on leprosy) for the M.D. of Edinburgh University was accepted, 'with commendation'.

At the request of the (British) Colonial Office, he carried out a leprosy survey in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate in 1937-38. He then returned to India on a short contract, which was extended because of the war and his essential work at Cawnpore, till 1946. For 10 years from 1947, he was in East Africa as Leprologist under the East Africa High Commission, conducting leprosy surveys, advising on leprosy campaigns in the 3 territories and beyond in Nyasaland, the Rhodesias and Zanzibar, and publishing articles on his epidemiological and therapeutic researches. He wrote reports in the lucid, authoritative style he made his own, and had the satisfaction of seeing many of his recommendations acted on by the Governments concerned.

Dr. Ross Innes brought to his task as Editor of *Leprosy Review* a rich and varied experience of leprosy in India, the Pacific Islands and Africa, a cultured, questing mind, and a deep human sympathy. Under his firm guidance, *Leprosy Review* changed its format and extended its outreach. Many readers of these pages will have cause to remember with gratitude Ross

Innes' helpful criticisms of their draft papers and the despatch he showed when dealing with articles accepted for publication. His flair for words and his working knowledge of a score of languages could nowhere have been put to more productive use than in the editorial chair of such a publication as *Leprosy Review*.

Ross Innes had many interests beyond *Leprosy Review* and LEPRO. He became a member of the International Leprosy Association in 1931 soon after its inauguration, and was appointed its Honorary Secretary-Treasurer in 1957, succeeding Dr. Ernest Muir. He relinquished this task at the end of 1965. Meanwhile he had become known to a wide circle of friends, leprologists and others. He did much preparatory work behind the scenes for the International Leprosy Congresses in Tokyo (1958) and Rio de Janeiro (1963), and had been busily engaged in the preliminary steps for the London (1968) Congress, being a member of the Organizing Committee. He was elected a Life Fellow of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in 1934, and was an Honorary Member of the Indian Association of Leprologists.

A Memorial Service to Ross Innes was held in St. Columba's Church of Scotland in London's West End on 15th May, 1968. In the congregation were many of his friends and colleagues, representatives of those in many walks of life who knew him and respected him. Fitting tribute was paid to his memory by Rev. J. Fraser McLuskey, M.C., D.D., who referred to Ross Innes as a devout Christian, a fine medical missionary (ordained an elder of the Church of Scotland at the exceptionally young age of 25), a beloved physician, a good man.

He has gone, but his works remain. As was written of Christopher Wren, when we 'look around' we see them—in his publications, in the pages of *Leprosy Review*, in the victims of leprosy in the four corners of the earth touched by his scientific skill and innate kindness, and in the mental pictures we retain of a man 'four square to all the winds that blew'.

S. G. BROWNE.

The Editors and Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Leprosy* wish to express their sense of loss in the passing of Dr. J. Ross Innes. Dr. Innes has contributed notably to the understanding and dissemination of knowledge of leprosy over a period of many years. His editorship of *Leprosy Review* and reviews of current literature in several abstract publications, for which his language facility was especially useful, have been of great value to leprosy workers in general. He will be hard to replace. We wish to express our condolences also to his family and friends.

ESMOND R. LONG,
Editor, IJL.

(MISS) DELTA DERROM,
Assistant Editor, IJL.

Dear Sir,

The workers of Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation learnt with great grief of the demise of Dr. Ross Innes on 2 May, 1968.

Dr. Innes was a luminary amongst leprosy workers. With a sense of devotion and dedication he gave impetus to the leprosy control movement in the world. As editor of *Leprosy Review* he sought to establish a fraternity amongst the workers and encouraged scientific thought in the control programme.

We are sad that he is no more with us and pray that his soul rest in peace.

GANDHI MEMORIAL LEPROSY FOUNDATION
AND STAFF.

May 30, 1968.